

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 NSC-05 SS-15 EB-08
AF-10 /085 W
-----126642 281621Z /64

P R 281338Z AUG 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2998
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 2579

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP JA CU
SUBJ: LATIN AMERICA TRIP BY MOFA PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER

REF: TOKYO 13506 (NOTAL)

1. PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER AINO VISITED HAVANA FOR SOME TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AUGUST 20-21, 1978. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, TAKUMI HOSAKI, HIS ONLY SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE ACTIVITY WAS A MEETING WITH CUBAN VICE-PRESIDENT AND SENIOR FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ. PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT RODRIGUEZ WAS ACCOMPANIED AT THE MEETING BY FIRST VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ANILLO, THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, AND THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS IN MINREX, AMBASSADOR ANGEL FERRAS.

2. AMBASSADOR HOSAKI CONFIRMED THAT VICE-MINISTER'S VISIT WAS LARGELY FOR GOODWILL. MEETING WITH CUBANS APPARENTLY CENTERED ON REVIEW AND DEFENSE BY RODRIGUEZ OF CUBAN POLICY IN AFRICA. THERE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN NO SURPRISES. RODRIGUEZ DID EMPHAIZE THAT CUBA WOULD SUPPORT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AS
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IS DOES THE CURRENT RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE. HE DID NOT EITHER PRAISE OR CRITICIZE DIRECTLY THE CONTACT GROUP PLAN FOR NAMIBIA OR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN FOR ZIMBABWE BUT DID EXPRESS GRAVE SUSPICIONS ABOUT BOTH VORSTER AND SMITH. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THESE REMARKS COULD BE INTERPRETED TO SUGGEST THAT ANY PLANS WHICH RELY UPON THE GOOD FAITH OF THOSE

GENTLEMEN ARE NOT WORHT MUCH.

3. RODRIGUEZ REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CUBA WILL NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM SOUTHER AFRICA SINCE TO DO SO COULD ONLY HURT THE NATIONALIST CAUSES BY TAKING THE HEAT OFF VORSTER AND SMITH. NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT CUBAN TROOPS IN THE NORTH.

4. AMBASSADOR HOSAKI INTERPRETED RODRIGUEZ' INITIATIVE IN DEFENDING CUBAN AFRICAN POLICY AS A RESPONSE TO CRITICISM APPEARING IN THE JAPANESE PRESS PURPORTING TO COME FROM A MEETING EARLIER THIS YEAR OF JAPANESE AMBASSADORS STATIONED AFRICA. HE SAID THAT CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN HAD QUESTIONED MOFA ABOUT THIS CRITICISM.

5. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HINTED THAT SUGAR SALES WERE ALSO TOUCHED UPON IN MEETING WITH RODRIGUEZ. WHEN QUERIED BY USINT CHIEF, AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT JAPAN WILL BUY AN ADDITIONAL 100,000 TONS THIS YEAR ABOVE AGREED PURCHASE LEVEL OF 300,000 TONS (HAVANA 1965).

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Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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